# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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**HOW ETHIOPIA SOLVES THE DEBT PROBLEM**

**The second man from the right owes money to the man in the dark robe, and cannot meet his obligations. So he is chained to his creditor and must go where the latter goes until he works out the debt (See Bulletin No. 2).**

### HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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## Sea Monsters Swim Through the Headlines

REPORTS that strange monsters are swimming about the seas within the view of witnesses continue to add variety to the daily headlines. News dispatches from Loch Ness, Scotland; Sicily; British Columbia, Canada; Sweden; and Caribbean islands have told of strange monsters, unknown to modern science, seen in nearby waters.

The most recent sea monster report comes from Cherbourg, France, which has a huge marine creature "25 feet long but only five feet in diameter at its widest part, giving it the aspect of a veritable sea serpent."

### Sea Serpents Have Stirred Men's Imaginations

Affidavits describing strange, elongated goliaths of the sea have been sworn to by seamen and tourists who have witnessed the movements of "sea serpents," or have seen their supposed prints on beach sands. But many scientists are inclined to explain the reports as mistaken identities or optical illusions.

Down through the centuries, gigantic sea serpents have stirred the imaginations of men. It is pretty generally believed by scientists that, although there may be ugly, unknown monsters that are somewhat like those of legend, none of them is bigger than the creatures of which there is a record.

Sharks, basking in the sun on the surface of the sea have led to weird sea serpent tales. Sometimes swimming in pairs, one behind the other, at a distance they lose their real identity and an observer can easily be led to believe that the two fish are really one monster.

Sea serpent scares which have been investigated also have turned out to be masses of seaweed, schools of migrating porpoises (see illustration, next page), tuna fish, groups of playful sea lions, and even swimming groups of ducks.

### British Columbia Has Nicknamed Its Monster

Ribbon or oar fishes of the Mediterranean, some of which are 30 feet in length, have also stimulated the sea serpent tales. Nemertines (sea worms) which measure up to 45 feet, and giant squids 50 feet long, both of which are unfamiliar to most laymen, have deceived people along the Atlantic coast of North America and the countries bordering the North Sea.

Despite the unwillingness of scientists to accept the modern version of the fabled sea serpent, it is a matter of record at Prender Island, British Columbia, that a Canadian court has recognized the existence of "Cadborosaurus," a sea serpent asserted to have been seen by many observers in the last four months. A citizen of British Columbia, it is reported, recently signed an affidavit before a Justice of the Peace, describing the sea creature (whatever it was) as seen by himself and a large party of friends. He avers that "Caddy" (the creature's sobriquet) thrust its great head above the surface of the water and swallowed a duck in one gulp, within 10 feet of the witnesses.

The monster was about 40 feet long, and about three feet in diameter, its body tapering off from head to tail, he reported.

Note: For other references and colored photographs of deep-sea life see: "Tropical Fish Immigrants," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1934; "Wonderer under Sea," December, 1932; "Shark Fishing—an Australian Industry," September, 1932; "Depths of the Sea," January, 1932; "Round Trip to Davy Jones's Locker," June, 1931; "Tropical Toy Fishes," March, 1931; "The Sealing Saga of Newfoundland," July, 1929; "Crabs and Crablike Curiosities



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**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA'S CAPITAL, IS A CITY OF UPS AND DOWNS**

Crowning the hill in the distance is the Gebbi, or royal palace, and the domed mausoleum of King Menelik II. While this stony, hillside street is typical, many of the thoroughfares of Addis Ababa are now paved, and automobiles are coming into daily use (See Bulletin No. 2).

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## Ethiopia Launches War on Slavery

SLAVERY has been banned by practically all the nations of the civilized world, but it is an admitted fact that human beings are bought and sold in some countries where the practice is officially tabu. Ethiopia, mountainous nation in northeastern Africa, might be classed among the latter, although vigorous steps to suppress slavery have recently been taken by Emperor Haile Selassie. A special government Slavery Department will deal with the problem henceforth.

Also known commonly as Abyssinia, Ethiopia embraces a rich and productive plateau region of more than 350,000 square miles (more than seven times the area of New York State), much broken by deep valleys. Arid, semidesert country surrounds it on every side. It does not touch the sea, although some Ethiopian feudal chieftains like to grasp a marine telescope as they pose for a formal photograph.

In the empire there are about 10,000,000 inhabitants, about one-half of whom are Christians of the true Ethiopian (Hamitic-Semitic) type. They are the inheritors of an ancient civilization under whose feudal form of government are estimated to be several million Moslems and pagans. The latter are mainly negroes.

### Melting Pot of Africans and Asiatics

Ethiopia is surrounded by African colonial possessions of Great Britain, France, and Italy. As the Ethiopia of Solomon's time, it probably included all of these adjacent territories, with an Egyptian frontier, and that part of southwestern Arabia known to-day as the Yemen and Hadhramaut.

The traveler is not long in Ethiopia until he is aware that the country is a sort of melting pot of Africans and Asiatics of many races. Some of the blood came from ancient Palestine, some from Arabia, and some from the shores of the Caspian. The Ethiopians claim with pride a strong relationship to the Semites.

Ethiopia's front door is the French port, Djibouti, French Somaliland. Viewed from an approaching steamer, the port town's small group of white-washed stone and mud buildings and pyramidal piles of salt glisten and sparkle in the tropical sun. Evaporating salt from sea water is Djibouti's leading industry.

The harbor water is the bluest of blue and the beach sands are snowy white. The picture is singularly attractive, but on shore the heat, flies, and fleas combine at certain seasons to establish a maximum of discomfort. Djibouti is the terminus of the 500-mile railway that links the port with the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The railway is Ethiopia's only modern connection with the outside world.

### Home of Coffee

The right-of-way skirts the Harar district of Ethiopia, the center of production of Ethiopian coffee. The coffee bean produced there is of excellent quality and ranks next to Mocha in the world's markets. It is called "longberry Mocha" and is sold to a select clientele in the United States.

Although the Harar plants are descended from seed introduced from the Mocha district of Arabia, Ethiopia is the home of coffee. The tree is said to have been found by Arab travelers in the Ethiopian Province of Kafa, from which it took its name. Seed was taken from Kafa to Arabia, and thence came back to Harar. In Kafa and adjoining parts of southwestern Ethiopia may be seen to-day vast and virgin forests of coffee. It grows without cultivation or care, and thousands of tons of the berries fall to the ground in waste each year.



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of the Sea," July, 1928; "Life on a Coral Reef," January, 1927; "Stalking the Dragon Lizard on the Island of Komodo," August, 1927; "Fishes and Fisheries of Our North Atlantic," December, 1923; "Sailing the Seven Seas in the Interest of Science," December, 1922; "Certain Citizens of the Warm Sea," January, 1922; and "Treasure House of the Gulf Stream" and "Interesting Citizens of the Gulf Stream," January, 1921.

See also "The Book of Fishes," by Dr. John Oliver La Gorce, and other authorities, published by the National Geographic Society.

**Bulletin No. 1, March 19, 1934.**

## GEOGRAPHY ILLUSTRATIONS ON LOOSE-LEAF SHEETS

Requests continue for information regarding geographic illustrations for use in the teaching of elementary geography classes.

Until further notice the National Geographic Society's six Pictorial Geography sets—264 world-revealing photographs on loose-leaf sheets, and 264 vivid geographic narratives that explain the pictures—may be had for $3.00 in the United States and possessions (postage extra elsewhere), by teachers, schools and libraries. The following form may be used in ordering:

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**SEA SERPENT?**

**Schools of porpoises such as this one, when viewed from a great distance or through hazy atmosphere, may have inspired modern tales of ancient sea monsters. Sometimes groups of swimming ducks have been mistaken for sea monsters.**

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## The Shetlands, Noted for Ponies, Shawls and Herring

GEOGRAPHY was in the making recently in the Shetland Islands. A news dispatch describes the collapse of a large cliff on one of the islands, north of Scotland, and the formation of a new beach below it where once there had been only deep water.

The Shetlands, long famous for their ponies and hand-knitted shawls, are also known to the rest of the British Isles as important fishing centers. Thousands of tons of herring are exported from the Shetlands annually, in addition to large cargoes of codfish, haddock, and some whale oil.

There are more than a hundred large and small islands in the Shetland group, but only about a third of them are inhabited. They lie about 110 miles north of Scotland and less than twice that distance from the coast of Norway, to which country they belonged after Harold Haarfager, first king of Norway, conquered the Picts, the Islands' early settlers, in 875.

### Given as Security for a Loan

Later James II of Scotland loaned Christian I of Norway and Sweden a large sum of money, and accepted the Shetlands as security. Christian did not meet his "note" when it became due, and the Shetlands consequently became Scotch (later English) property.

Lerwick, the Shetland capital, is the chief fishing port. It lies on the east coast of Mainland Island, surrounding a splendid harbor where often more than a thousand little steamers, fresh from the fishing grounds, are anchored so close together that one can walk from the farthest to the shore by stepping from one boat to another.

Although it is the largest town on the Islands, Lerwick has only a single street that runs along the shore. Numerous narrow lanes leading off to the houses on the hillside are provided with ropes to prevent pedestrians from slipping in icy weather.

The curing and packing plants of Lerwick present neither an inviting odor nor appearance. After the cargoes of fish have been sold at auction, they are taken to a long table lined with women, who clean them for curing. Near by there are "acres" of barrels to be packed, and packed barrels awaiting shipment.

### Farming Almost Impossible

Scalloway, the old capital, while only a town of about 700 inhabitants, is also an important fish port. Scalloway is also on Mainland, the largest island in the Shetlands.

Mainland is more than 50 miles long and 20 miles wide, but long "tongues" of water pierce the coast line so far inland that there is no town on the island more than three miles from salt water.

Except for the remains of a few Pict towers, and the quaint stone houses where one can see the famous Shetland knit work in the making, the interior of the Shetlands is uninteresting.

The Islands are almost treeless, and their surface of peat and stone make profitable farming impossible. Only about one-sixth of the Islands' 551 square miles is under cultivation. The women, who do the farm work with the aid of ponies, have some success with turnips, cabbage and potatoes. Ten acres is considered a large farm.



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Addis Ababa, the capital, sprawls in a forest of blue gum trees, with the church-crowned Mount Intotto forming a lofty background.

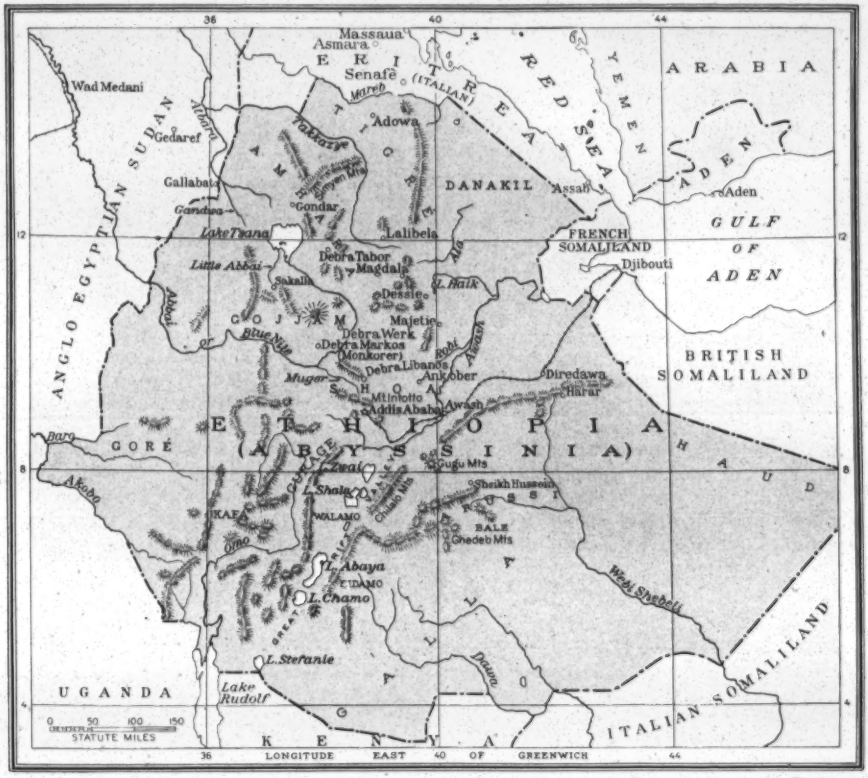
Although somewhat isolated, the city is steadily improving along modern lines. In 1929, a one-story frame building was replaced by a handsome stone railroad station. At this building the traveler not only gets a glimpse of the capital's citizens but of some of Ethiopia's leading articles of trade. They include bales of hides and skins, collected from interior provinces and brought to Addis Ababa for export to Europe and America; stacks of coffee bags; piles of elephant tusks; and bales of American cotton piece goods which are a principal import.

A ride of twenty minutes on mule or horseback or five minutes by motor takes the visitor to the main part of the city of the "New Flower." On one of the two principal elevations of the city is the ever-interesting market place.

Near the market are legations, consulates, hotels, and many modern business buildings. The city has about 200,000 inhabitants, about 5,000 of whom are foreigners, including about 50 Americans. The other elevation of Addis Abba is crowned by the group of buildings which make up the Imperial Palace.

Note: Ethiopia is one of the least-known yet most interesting nations in the world. The following articles, one illustrated with natural-color photographs, reveal its unique aspects and natural resources: "Modern Ethiopia" and "Coronation Days in Addis Ababa," *National Geographic Magazine*, June, 1931; "Nature and Man in Ethiopia," August, 1928; "A Caravan Journey through Abyssinia," June, 1925; and "Peoples and Places of Northern Africa," October, 1922.

**Bulletin No. 2, March 19, 1934.**




*Drawn by James M. Darley*

**ETHIOPIA, THE WORLD'S OLDEST EMPIRE**

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## Magallanes, the World's Southernmost City

MAGALLANES (formerly Punta Arenas), in southern Chile, was recently made a free port—that is, import duties were abolished for goods from near-by Argentine territory and other countries.

Cable reports from this southernmost city in the world state that its new status, however, has brought it very little additional commerce. Foreign exchange credits are blamed. It will probably remain among the select group of the world's free ports awaiting normal conditions.

When Magellan, after whom the city is named, passed through the never-before navigated Magellan Strait on his famous world-girdling voyage, the site of Magallanes was an uninhabited sandy point.

Magallanes overlooks the narrow strait from the north bank. It is about 100 miles northwest of Cape Horn. Between the city and the Cape there is a mass of islands inhabited by native Indians (see illustration, next page) and only a few white men. Not far to the east lie the Falkland Islands, a British colony.

### Began as a Penal Colony

Like many other cities of the New World that sprang up along the trails blazed by Old World mariners, Magallanes got its start as a penal colony. When trade between the Atlantic and Pacific ports of the Western Hemisphere developed, however, it became an important supply and coaling station.

It was composed largely of rambling galvanized iron and wooden structures, flanking streets that in the rainy season were rivers of mud with tree stumps offering the only dry spots.

The opening of the Panama Canal struck a blow to Magallanes that would have forced many cities into obscurity. Ships operating between Europe and Australia continued to stop at the port, and shipping from Atlantic to Pacific ports of the southern part of the continent continued to pass through the Strait; but keen business men of Magallanes, whose eyes had been focused on sea trade since the city's birth, began to turn to the land to offset their losses.

Magallanes owes its recent prosperity to sheep. The first of the woolly creatures had been introduced in 1879.

These, and later-imported sheep, thrived on the grass of the mainland as well as on the near-by islands. The cool climate (it is like that of southeastern Alaska) caused the sheep to develop thick coats of wool, which became famous for their whiteness and fine texture.

### Thrives Despite Isolation

One company which uses Magallanes as its commercial outlet is capitalized at several million dollars. It owns more than two million acres of land, where graze more than a million sheep, 25,000 cattle and 9,000 horses. It shears more than a million sheep each year.

Many of the world's dinner tables have been furnished with choice cuts of beef and mutton from this region.

Another company owns more than 1,500,000 sheep, besides cattle and horses, and maintains its own meat-canning factory and tallow plant. The sheep and cattle industry also supports a tremendous trade in hides.

The Andes Mountains rise like a wall to the northwest of the city to shut it



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Unst, the northernmost island, has been called the garden spot of the Shetlands. It is more fertile than the others and not quite so desolate. It is on Unst that many of the shawls are made. The Islanders attribute the fine quality of their work to the wool which is not shorn but pulled from the sheep's neck.

The 127 inhabitants of Fair Isle, lying between the Orkneys and the Shetlands, are famous for their knitted hosiery and jerseys. Many of their patterns are derived from designs taught them by Spaniards who were shipwrecked on Fair in 1588.

### The Long, Dark Winter

After the summer fishing season is over the Shetlanders settle down for a long, dark winter although some cod and haddock fishing is carried on until spring. Since the islands are above the 60th parallel, the natives are accustomed to almost nightless summers when photographs can be taken at 10 p. m. and one can read a newspaper without artificial light at midnight.

Likewise they are accustomed to early winters, when the sun does not rise until late in the morning and sets early in the afternoon. December, midwinter in Shetland, averages less than an hour of sunshine a day.

Note: For additional data about Shetland ponies, and of unique aspects of life on the Shetland Islands, see: "The Story of the Horse," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1923; "Sailing the Seven Seas in the Interest of Science," December, 1922; and "Orkneys and Shetlands—A Mysterious Group of Islands," February, 1921.

**Bulletin No. 3, March 19, 1934.**

*Photograph by Thomas Kent*

**A LAND OF HEART'S DESIRE FOR SOME YOUNGSTERS**

**The Shetland pony is known and loved by children everywhere. In his native Islands this diminutive horse is used in the coal mines and to haul fishermen's seines. Not only are the Shetland ponies small, but the Islands' breed of cows is not as large as those elsewhere. Shetland ponies are as sure-footed as mules and as patient as donkeys. Their good nature enables them to put up with the whims of children without resentment or rebellion.**

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## Philadelphia's Plans Affect Three States

PHILADELPHIA has always done things in a big way. It was the first community in the country to have a civic plan, thanks to the foresight of its founder, William Penn. Recently it has prepared a Tri-State Regional Plan, with the help of 400 neighboring towns and cities, which is designed to care for the needs of a region extending 35 or 40 miles around City Hall.

The City of Brotherly Love, as it is sometimes called, expects to double in size by 1980, and it wants to do so in an orderly manner. The Tri-State Plan concerns itself with new commercial, industrial, residential and play areas and their development in adjacent Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, as well as within the Philadelphia City and County of to-day.

"A city so small that in 1682 its location had to be defined as a half mile from Shackamaxon, Philadelphia in two and a half centuries has become one of the world's greatest urban centers, possessing a colorful history of leadership in the arts and sciences and in the progress of industry," writes Dr. John Oliver La Gorce, Vice-President of the National Geographic Society, in a communication to The Society's Washington, D. C. headquarters.

### Third Largest American City

"To-day this metropolis of two million souls, third in size among American cities and eleventh among the municipalities of the earth, covers 80,000 acres, stretching 14 miles between League Island and Somerton, and seven miles between the Delaware River and Cobbs Creek. Despite its spread, it continues to be the city of its founder, for William Penn established its plan, selected its name, and projected its future.

"Marvelous changes have been wrought since the solid old Quaker landed at the Blue Anchor Inn; but neither widened streets and new-built boulevards, expanding wealth and population, nor waxing commerce have erased the elusive charm and challenging spirit that its founder gave the city.

"The traditions and the attitudes of long ago are maintained here as perhaps nowhere else in America. It is no mere coincidence that Philadelphia has sixteen firms that have been doing business since the days before the Constitution was adopted, or that the city has a number of firms that have persisted for a century."

Dr. La Gorce calls attention to the fact that one acre out of every thirteen within the confines of the city is devoted to parks and squares. Of Fairmount Parkway, "that marvelous $30,000,000 thoroughfare which the city has opened," he says: "A noted city planner has called the Parkway an object lesson in American city planning.

### Has Most Home-Owners

"Philadelphia is distinctive for its solution of housing problems. Little caves in the bluffs on the Delaware River along the line of Front Street were used as dwellings by the impatient pilgrims who spent the winter of 1682 on the site of the new city.

"Instead of those primitive caves in the bluffs of the Delaware, Philadelphia has seen itself become the premier city of homes in America.

"The 1930 census revealed that it had 365,000 one-family dwellings, Chicago 210,000 such habitations, and New York 294,000.

"Always a fascinating phase of the life of Philadelphia is the beauty of its suburban areas and the perfection of its commuter train service. One may study the suburbs of all the cities of the world and nowhere find any more delightfully convenient to the heart of a city than one can find in the environs of Philadelphia.

"So rapid and dependable is the railroad and subway transportation between Philadelphia and its suburbs that an office worker residing miles away can reach his place of business at least as quickly as the city dweller.

### Industries Rooted in the Past

"The city's industries are rooted in that remote past before the machine age reached its height, and when men of high skill had to do by hand what mere machine tenders can do to-day. Such men loved their little homes and had no taste for tenements.

"With but one-sixtieth of the Nation's population, the city of the great Penn produces about one-twenty-fifth of all its manufactures. Philadelphia-built locomotives draw trains to the top of the Andes, into the heart of China, through the solitudes of the Congo. Philadelphia-built steamships sail the seven seas and fly their flags in every port in the world. Philadelphia-made



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off from the remainder of South America. No railroad crosses this barrier. The nearest large city is more than a thousand miles away.

But despite isolation and the set-back it received with the completion of the Panama Canal, Magallanes has become a modern city of some 20,000 inhabitants. Splendid buildings have taken the places of many of the unsightly shacks, and wide, well-paved streets have obliterated the "rivers of mud."

Back of the city, in country which not long ago was almost untrod by white men, paved roads wind through fertile farmlands and vast grazing areas to villages and towns that seem to have sprung up overnight.

Note: Brief additional references to Magallanes (formerly Punta Arenas) and to Tierra del Fuego will be found in: "The Greatest Voyage in the Annals of the Sea (Magellan)," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1932; "Flying the World's Longest Air-Mail Route," March, 1930; "Twin Stars of Chile," February, 1929; "A Voyage to the Island Home of Robinson Crusoe," September, 1928; "How Latin America Looks from the Air," October, 1927; "Measuring the Sun's Heat," January, 1926; "Interviewing the Stars," January, 1925; "A Longitudinal Journey through Chile," September, 1922; "The New Map of South America," October, 1921; and "The Awakening of Argentina and Chile," August, 1916.

**Bulletin No. 4, March 19, 1934.**

*Photograph from Harriet Chalmers Adams*

**INDIAN CAMPFIRES GAVE TIERRA DEL FUEGO ITS NAME**

**It was the smoke from the campfires of nomadic Alacaluf tribes that caused the great island opposite the present city of Magallanes to be called "Tierra del Fuego," which is Spanish for Land of Fire. Only a few scattered remnants of these tribes are to be found to-day. They still hunt with bow and arrow in dug-out canoes, and anoint their bodies with fish-oil to keep out the cold.**

medicines heal the sickness of the savage in Borneo and Zululand, soothe the aches and still the pains of people from Tombouctou and Kamchatka to Nome and Rio de Janiero.

"Forest and field, mine and quarry, ocean bed and mountain top, jungle and desert, pampa and steppe, frozen tundra and tropic beach, alike trade with the metropolis of Penn.

"It is fitting that the city of the Great Printer, Benjamin Franklin, should to this day have printing and publishing as one of its chief industries. Its books circulate throughout the world. Its magazines are read wherever the English tongue is known."

## How Philadelphia Received Its Name

Dr. La Gorce, whose world travels have taken him to more than one Philadelphia, explains thus the naming by Penn of the "City of Brotherly Love":

"The lover of peace and of humility had been denied the privilege of naming his Commonwealth by his king, who would not listen to his entreaties against naming it Pennsylvania. Even a bribe of twenty guineas could not induce the undersecretary to take away what Penn felt was an un-Quakerlike use of his name.

"Suffering that, he did not propose to let anyone interfere with the naming of his city. Being a classical scholar, our good William turned to Greek history for his choice. The great Colonizer and man of peace certainly knew of the Philadelphia east of Smyrna, that was the seat of one of the Seven Churches of Asia referred to in the Book of Revelation, and perhaps of the one (called Amman to-day) that was the ancient capital of the Ammonite Kingdom northeast of Jerusalem.

"So he decided to christen his capital by that name, probably as much for its pleasant sound as for its significance, which, as every school child learns, means 'brotherly love,' although, when I visited Amman recently, it was a storm center of Arab unrest, with threatened uprisings."

Note: See also "Historic City of Brotherly Love," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1932; "The Travels of George Washington," January, 1932; "The Origin of American State Names," August, 1920; "Pennsylvania—the Industrial Titan of America," May, 1919; and "Republics—the Ladder to Liberty," March, 1917.

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**A MODERN BETSY ROSS MAKING AMERICAN FLAGS**

**Philadelphia, the birthplace of our emblem, manufactures many of the flags used by the U. S. Army, as well as vast quantities of uniforms, supplies, and equipment. Thirteen operations take place before red, white and blue bunting becomes flags.**